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Conceptual Paper

Agriculture and Livestock in Brazil, with a Focus on Sustainable Production

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Brazil's main economic performance factor is Agriculture, focused on both the domestic market and exports. Thus, focused on production with traceability, sustainability, research and technology, the country has excellent conditions to be one of the great agents in reducing hunger in the world. Studies published by the UN estimate that the world population will reach 9.7 billion people in 2050, that is, it will be necessary to increase production, whose foundation is essentially in the sustainable environment. Today, Brazilian Agribusiness is responsible for feeding around 800 million people, or approximately 10% of the global population, according to a study released on 03/04/2021, by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), which measured the data through the basic production of grains and oilseeds in the country. Producing food is an activity that involves science and technology, but this is not always noticed by the population. The data also show that Brazil has an available arable area estimated at 152.5 million hectares or 17.9% of the National Territory, and of these, 62.5 million hectares or 7.3% of the territory is constituted by the area. already used.

For many years, the development of Brazilian agriculture was carried out in a disorderly manner, generating harmful environmental impacts, mainly due to the change in the soil caused by deforestation and the use of natural ecosystems transformed into cultivated areas. The introduction of the cerrado brought a new panorama to Brazil, which started to produce more, essentially, due to the climate, although the soils are of low nutrient availability.

Among the technologies used to improve sustainability in Agriculture, they are cited as major transformation factors - no-tillage, genetic improvement, biotechnology, remote sensing, drones, navigation systems, big data, machinery with autopilot, cloud computing, analysis data for market orientation and logistics, among others. It is Agriculture 4.0 that optimizes processes, from the production of inputs to delivery to the consumer.

In Livestock, we have - recovery of pastures, reuse of animal waste and its fertigation and manufacture of agro-mineral fertilizers, good animal management practices, proper use of inputs, diet balancing, animal genetic improvement, adoption of integrated production systems, daily monitoring of the physical and biological conditions of the herd. All this seeking to balance livestock production with sustainability, among other technologies.

It is observed that the environmental impacts caused by Brazilian agriculture have made great strides in the survival of natural resources and that the consumer market is increasingly demanding. Thus, despite all the efforts and progress implemented, we still have to move forward in increasing control of all production processes so that the next generations can enjoy the land in a much more sustainable way, always observing three pillars: the economic , the social and the environmental.